U.S. Embassy Quito, Ecuador Security Message for U.S. Citizens

Ongoing Demonstrations throughout Ecuador

The U.S. Embassy in Quito would like to inform U.S. citizens that, demonstrations in response to various government initiatives are planned for June 10, 2015, throughout Ecuador. Media reports state that demonstrations could continue beyond June 10, 2015, and recent demonstrations have occurred without advance notice, except on social media, and caused significant disruptions.

Current information is that demonstrations are planned for the following locations on June 10, but demonstrations could spread beyond these locations and widespread effects should be anticipated.

Quito: Avenida de los Shyris and Calle Portugal, by the Alianza Pais headquarters;

Guayaquil: Parque Centenario and around the vicinity of the Governor's Office;

Cuenca: Parque Calderon;

Galapagos Islands: Plazoleta de la Gobernacion.

The U.S. Embassy advises U.S. citizens to remain alert and informed via local news sources regarding areas where demonstrations may be occurring and to avoid the areas near the demonstrations. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Ecuador enroll in the Department of State's **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program**. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the <u>State Department's website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read <u>the Country Specific Information for Ecuador</u>. For additional information, please refer to our "<u>Traveler's Checklist</u>" page. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

Contact information:

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Dialing instructions within Ecuador:

- Within the same city and from a land line use the last seven digits.
- For calls from a mobile phone and for intercity telephone calls add the city code preceded by a 0.

Dialing instructions from the United States:

• Add the 011 prefix for an international long distance line.

For after-hours emergencies, call the phone numbers listed above for assistance.